

Porter's Page

**Glimpses from the Los Angeles Nehemiah Project (LANP)
Dr. Arthur Porter, Iowa District West missionary
serving the Los Angeles Nehemiah Project**

We are seriously working on some fundamental needs at Nehemiah. We are aggressively moving to tighten up our pervasive weaknesses across our Nehemiah family. There are two such weaknesses that must be remedied if we are to ever achieve our desired and indispensable goal.

Our needs are revealed to us after a long and studied examination of our ministry. The general profile of the majority of our pastors is part-time. The last two years we studied the significance of full time pastors. The full time pastor is the single-most important component of a successful ministry. The full time pastor must be passionate about inner-city and multi-cultural ministry.

Our study included a year-long examination of what constitutes an at-risk situation. We found that most of our congregations are at-risk and the conditions are worsening. To combat the situation we are seeking funds for pastoral assistance for churches unable to call a pastor on their own but are willing to make some changes to accommodate new approaches to ministry. We have received one grant from IDW-LWML toward our goal.

Our second most serious and critical need is a comprehensive program for community outreach.

We are and have been lacking in outreach effort and proficiency for too long. We seek to change that without delay. To bring about this change we need an ambitious effort. As in "when behind we have to run faster"; and "when going to the well take a big bucket." The time for action is now. We believe the centerpiece of this ambitious effort is a multi-purpose community and service center. The center would be a recognizable Lutheran symbol in the community designed to provide social, family, and educational services to youth and adults across the greater Los Angeles area serving all Nehemiah churches. The center will make a compelling statement of what God is doing in this community. We have already made one presentation to the Synod for funds to open the center. Los Angeles is a crossroads where millions can be reached if we are in a position to explore the opportunity. The center will be a significant step forward.

The contacts made at the center would lead to developing relationships that could lead to introducing people to Jesus.

Sharing Christ through our ministry is our ultimate goal. The center would put us in contact with youth, a demographic absent today among our members.

Thanks for the prayers and support of our fellow pilgrims in mission.

Los Angeles Nehemiah Project

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Your partnership through financial support of this mission is most appreciated. Donations for the Nehemiah Project can be sent to Iowa District West (PO Box 1155, Fort Dodge, IA 50501). Your support will be forwarded to Dr. Porter and related ministries.

